

Message Text

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10

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SCA-01

DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ARA-16

DRC-01 /164 W

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R 201825Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM ICRC

SUBJECT: GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF WAR -- CREDENTIALS
QUESTIONS

REF: GENEVA 1702

1. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MET FOR SECOND TIME P.M.
MARCH 20. CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT REPORTED CREDENTIALS
105 DELEGATIONS NOW IN ORDER, AND CREDENTIALS EIGHTEEN
OTHER DELEGATIONS STILL BEING AWAITED.

2. CAMEROON REP RAISED QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CRE-
DENTIALS WHICH HE HAD OMITTED TO MENTION AT PREVIOUS
MEETING (REPORTED REFTEL). PROTESTED PRESENCE OF SOUTH
AFRICAN REP. AT HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE AND ASKED THAT
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HIS RESERVATION CONCERNING CREDENTIALS OF SOUTH AFRICAN

DELEGATE, WHO REPRESENTED ONLY A MINORITY OF PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BE RECORDED IN COMMITTEE'S REPORT. SUPPORTING STATEMENTS MADE BY REPS OF MADAGASCAR, SENEGAL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IRAQ.

3. DISCUSSION CENTERED CHIEFLY ON FORMAT OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT, WITH CZECH AND SENEGALESE REPS ARGUING FOR INCLUSION OF FULL STATEMENTS OF RESERVATIONS RE CREDENTIALS IN BODY OF REPORT AND NOT IN ANNEX, AS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY CHAIRMAN. US REP ARGUED FOR INCLUSION RESERVATIONS IN ANNEX AND RESERVED POSITION ON REBUTTAL STATEMENT HE WOULD PROPOSE FOR INCLUSION IN REPORT UNTIL AFTER DRAFT REPORT EXAMINED.

4. PERU REP READ OUT STATEMENT FOR INCLUSION IN REPORT REAFFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION, WITH CAVEAT THAT APPROVAL OF CREDENTIALS OF COLONIAL OR RACIST POWERS COULD NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT POLICIES THESE GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS CLEVERLY DRAFTED STATEMENT WHICH OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED AFRICANS AND CZECHS.

5. AUSTRALIAN REP. ASKED THAT REPORT REFLECT HIS DISASSOCIATION FROM RESERVATIONS RELATING TO CREDENTIALS OF ANY DELEGATION WHOSE CREDENTIALS TECHNICALLY IN ORDER.

6. BEFORE MEETING ENDED BRIEF DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON STATUS PARTICIPATION DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, WHICH SECRETARIAT REPORTED HAD WITHDRAWN FROM CONFERENCE. SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL REFERRED TO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM DRV DELEGATION, THE TEXT OF WHICH SHE DECLINED TO READ. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED BY U.S. AND CAMEROON, SECRETARIAT AFFIRMED THAT CREDENTIALS OF DRV HAD BEEN SUBMITTED IN DUE FORM. CONCLUDED THAT DRV CREDENTIALS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

7. NEXT MEETING OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR P.M. MARCH 22 TO CONSIDER DRAFT REPORT.DALE

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